

80780 to 80809—Continued.

in the Coachella Valley of California have attracted attention on the one hand because of the excellence of the fruit and on the other because the flower clusters have seldom set many fruits. From investigations in Iraq it appears that this handicap is diminished by planting on heavy soil and pollinating very promptly after the flowers open. The variety is well known and widely distributed in Iraq, but was not found in abundance except at Mandali.

80783. *Azrakani*. Obtained at Mandali. A medium to small-sized, amber-colored date somewhat similar to *Allona* [No. 80780], and also very likely a seedling of *Amir Haj* [No. 80781]. A rare variety found chiefly at Mandali.

80784. *Badami*. Obtained at Mandali. An inferior variety, probably a seedling of *Zahedy*, to which the fruit has some resemblance, though oblong rather than obovate.

80785. *Bahrab*. Obtained at Mandali. A variety fairly well known north and east of Baghdad, but nowhere very abundant. It is a long, narrow, amber-colored date of good flavor, resembling the *Okt Fteemy* variety from North Africa. It cures well and is said to be one of the earliest ripening varieties in northern Iraq.

80786. *Bairakdar*. Obtained at Mandali. A medium to large-sized amber-colored date of fair quality local to Mandali.

80787. *Banawish*. Obtained at Mandali.

80788. *Barhi*. Obtained near Basra. An ovate amber date of excellent quality, already known from a few specimens growing in the Coachella Valley of California. It is found chiefly in southern Iraq, where it is rare but well known and highly esteemed. It is one of the few varieties which are sweet in the "khalal" stage—the period immediately preceding the softening which accompanies complete maturity.

80789 and 80790. *Bedraya*. Probably the best dry date in Iraq. The fruit is medium to large, oblong, straw colored, and mild flavored. The variety is well known in northern Iraq. It was not found in large numbers in any of the localities visited, but was said to be more abundant in Bedra, the oasis of its origin.

80789. Obtained at Mandali.

80790. Obtained from the Oasis of Bedra through the courtesy of J. F. Webster, Inspector General of Agriculture in Iraq.

80791. *Braim*. Obtained at Basra. A medium-sized oblong amber date common on the Shaat Al Arab. Almost the entire crop in southern Iraq is harvested in the "khalal" or preripe stage, boiled, dried and exported to other parts of Iraq and to India, Persia, and Arabia.

80792. *Dabri*. Obtained at Basra. A common variety in southern Iraq, said to be almost on a par with *Sayer* [No. 80808] in its resistance to adverse conditions. The purplish-brown fruit is medium to large, oblong-elliptical, and of good quality. It now appears that there are a number of palms of this variety already growing in the Coa-

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chella Valley of California, although their identity was in doubt prior to the recent investigations of this department in Iraq.

80793. *Digal Iman Husain*. Obtained at Mandali. A seedling date of which only a few palms have been propagated locally. The fruit is oblong, rather large, and of the amber type, characterized by a darker color at the base than at the apex.

80794. *Digal Umad*. A local variety in Mandali. The fruit resembles somewhat the *Khadrawy* of northern Iraq.

80795. *Fursi*. Obtained in Basra. A variety occurring, though not very common, in southern Iraq. Observations on a specimen of this variety, now fruiting at the United States Experiment Date Garden, Indio, Calif., indicate that it is promising for testing in more humid date areas. The fruit is nearly black, medium sized, oblong-elliptical, and of good quality.

80796. *Gantar*. Obtained in Basra. A small subspherical amber date said to be late ripening. It is said that nearly 2 per cent of the adult female palm population of the Shaat Al Arab belong to this variety. It is also not uncommon in the date gardens of the Tigris and the lower Euphrates.

80797. *Gnami*. A male variety of southern Iraq obtained in Basra.

80798. *Jaafary*. Obtained in the Oasis of Mandali, where this variety is chiefly found. A good soft black date from northern Iraq. It is medium to large and oblong to broadly elliptical.

80799. *Karunfali*. A local variety occurring at Mandali. The medium-sized fruit is of the black type and resembles the *Jaafary* [No. 80798] in quality, but differs in shape, being ovate rather than oblong.

80800. *Khadrawy of northern Iraq*. Obtained in Mandali. An entirely different variety from the *Khadrawy* of Basra, southern Iraq, which has already become established in the southwestern United States. Owing partly to the fact that they do not occur in the same localities, it was not recognized in Iraq prior to the investigations of the United States Department of Agriculture that two of their important varieties were going under the same name. The fruit of the northern variety is very similar to that of the southern variety, but is larger and later in ripening.

80801. *Khasab*. Obtained in Basra. A medium-sized black date said to be the latest-ripening variety in southern Iraq. Sometimes the dates are allowed to remain on the palms until the coming of the Christmas frosts. Although the flavor is but indifferent, yet a date which so lengthens the season for fresh fruit does not lack popularity. About 1 in 6,000 palms on the banks of the Shaat Al Arab is of this variety, and it is to be found on the banks of the Tigris as far north as Baghdad, but has not been found on the Euphrates.

80802. *Khatooni*. A local variety in Mandali. The fruit is small to medium sized, oblong, purplish black, and of fair quality.